

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



## OnCampus ecoAmbassadors

OnCampus ecoAmbassadors are college students who implement projects from EPA's partnership programs to help carry out the Agency's mission to protect human health and the environment. The program is open to ANY college student, regardless of program, age, or background. All interested students are encouraged to participate.

### Did You Know?

- The computer and electronic waste stream is growing rapidly in the United States ; it is growing three times faster than any other waste material that we generate.
- Recycling one million laptops saves energy equivalent to the electricity energy used by 3,657 homes in a year.
- For every million cell phones we recycle, 35,274 pounds of copper, 772 pounds of silver, 75 pounds of gold, and 33 pounds of palladium can be recovered.

### Why Certified Recycling?

- Certified recyclers follow stringent environmental and safety standards when managing used electronics. These standards help limit environmental and human health impacts from improper recycling.
- Certified recyclers help get quality reusable and refurbished equipment to those who need it and recyclable equipment to those that can manage it safely.
- Certified recyclers delete data and personal information from electronic devices.

### Learn More

For more information, please visit [www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/materials/ecycling](http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/materials/ecycling)



Preserving Resources,  
Preventing Waste

## Electronics Recycling (E-cycling) Project

Recycling (e-cycling) electronics, like cell phones, laptops, TVs, and gaming systems can conserve and recover valuable materials (gold, silver, copper), reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with making new products, and decrease the amount of electronics sitting in landfills. If you are planning to buy new electronics, consider using EPEAT-registered electronics which are made with less toxic chemicals, use less energy, and are easily reused and recycled.

**E-cycle your electronics with certified electronics recyclers.** Certified recyclers are audited to ensure that your electronics will be managed safely in ways that are protective of public health and the environment. Recyclers can be certified to the Responsible Recycling (R2) Solutions or the e-Stewards® certification programs.

### Goals of the E-cycling Project

- Encourage the reuse or donation of working electronics, and e-cycle unwanted electronics exclusively with certified recyclers
- Identify certified electronics recyclers in your area, and encourage local electronic recyclers to become certified
- Educate students about the benefits of recycling electronics and buying EPEAT-registered electronics

### If You're Interested In:

- E-cycling with certified recyclers
- Collecting e-cycling data on campus
- Designing an e-cycling program and identifying ways to track its progress
- Motivating students to change their behavior

**... then the E-cycling Project is for you!**

See page 2 for a step-by-step checklist for the E-cycling Project.



### Students Taking Action

Jackson State University created the Computer Recycling and Training Project to increase awareness about computer recycling and create jobs for the local economy. This program provides on-site job training for low-income individuals, teaching them valuable skills needed for employment. Through newspaper advertising, the program has collected more than 16,000 pounds of computers and computer components from area colleges and universities, businesses, private homes, and state and local agencies. Volunteers and participants refurbished the computers for redistribution in the community, and recycled computers that could not be refurbished.

The E-cycling Project is ideal for students pursuing degrees in business, environmental science, engineering, and public policy.

## Checklist for the E-cycling Project

Follow the steps below to empower students, faculty, and others on your campus.

### ☐ 1. Identify potential waste recycling and reduction activities.

Conduct a brainstorming session to identify potential waste recycling and reduction activities for students to buy greener electronics and to recycle old computers, televisions, cell phones, and other electronics. Potential activities include:

- Donating reusable electronic equipment to local schools or other nonprofit organizations
- Increasing awareness about buying remanufactured or EPEAT-registered equipment
- Recycling equipment that cannot be reused with a certified recycler

### ☐ 2. Find a certified recycler.

Contact your campus facilities management team to see how they dispose of unwanted electronics as well as the tech department to see if they are involved in an e-cycling program for outdated equipment. Find out if the recycler your school uses is certified; if not, encourage your school to switch to a certified recycler, or encourage the recycler to become certified. You can find certified recyclers near you through R2 Solutions and e-Stewards®. Electronics manufacturers and retailers sometimes sponsor collection events. Make sure that they use certified recyclers.

### ☐ 3. Form a team.

Gather support for your efforts by developing relationships with facilities staff, environmental clubs, and residential building managers. Facilities staff can lend administrative support, and peers in environmental clubs can help you when conducting assessments and publicizing your efforts.

### ☐ 4. Kick off your project.

Hold a kickoff event to promote your project and encourage students and faculty to participate. Hold additional meetings with environmental and other relevant groups on your campus to explain how your project will help avoid pollution, save energy, and conserve resources.

### ☐ 5. Publicize your project and activities.

Utilize multiple media outlets to get the word out about your project and activities. Create a Facebook event and invite your friends. Promote your efforts in your school newspaper and make class announcements. If possible, have your project and event sponsored by relevant student organizations and campus officials to reach a larger audience. Document your activities by taking photos and sharing them on the OnCampus Facebook page. Keep track of your results and record lessons learned so you can make your E-cycling Project even better.

### ☐ 6. Fill out your completion form.

Record the information that you are required to report to EPA on the event completion form, including your name, date of the event, name of your college, a description of the event or events, the number of interactions (include any interesting comments), and additional comments.

## Resources

### Questions to Ask Your Recycler

1. Ask if they certified to an electronics certification program such as R2 Solutions or e-Stewards®.
2. Ask if they clear out the data in electronics devices.
3. Confirm that they offer transportation for the collected equipment.
4. Inquire about necessary logistics for the day of the event (i.e., collection area, manpower, etc.)
5. Learn the rules and regulations around electronics recycling in your area.

### Find Greener Electronics

EPEAT: [www.epeat.net](http://www.epeat.net)

### Find Certified Recyclers

R2 Solutions: [www.r2solutions.org](http://www.r2solutions.org)  
e-Stewards: [www.e-stewards.org](http://www.e-stewards.org)

### Tips for Successful Events

1. Find a suitable space.
2. Put up posters to advertise the event.
3. Create a Facebook event.
4. Ask friends to spread the word.
5. Plan to have snacks available – find out if you can get donations.
6. Arrange for music at the event.
7. Arrive early to set up the space, including snacks and music.
8. Use sign-up sheets to record attendance.
9. Create a written summary of the event.

### EPA Contact Info

**EPA OnCampus Team**  
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### EPA OnCampus Websites

Visit the EPA website at  
[www.epa.gov/ecoambassadors/oncampus](http://www.epa.gov/ecoambassadors/oncampus)



Join the conversation at  
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